

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 1, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: August 30, 2003 (2200)**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5  
National Preparedness Level = 5*

**NORTHERN ROCKIES DAILY SUMMARY**

*Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*

- *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 16,655 acres, 5% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell, MT.*
- *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 5,310 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
- *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 48,763 acres, 75% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 12,382 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
- *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon). This 37,822 acre fire complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This complex is being managed to accomplish resource objectives.*
- *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 49,351 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Trapper Creek Complex – 18,883 acres, 65% contained, 45 miles NE of Kalispell.*
- *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,000 acres, 70% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*

*Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:*

- *Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 37,254 acres, 73% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 3,010 acres, 70% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Winslow – 13,438 acres, 50% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview. \*\*\* No new information reported\*\*\**

- *Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 2,778 acres, 20% contained, 10 miles S of Nye. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) will assume command 9/1 at 0600.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 3,102 acres, 90% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gray) – 3,080 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*

*Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*

- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 31,456 acres, 40% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,061 acres, 90% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cherry Creek Complex – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 22,542 acres, 70% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 24,000 acres, 55% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*

*Central Idaho Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires in Montana:*

- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 24,495 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *Mollman – 158 acres, 35% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.*

**B. Initial Attack**      *Minimal initial attack in the Northern Rockies - 7 new fires 8,468 acres*

**C. State Forecast For Montana**

#### **STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT**

**400 AM MDT MON SEP 1 2003**

#### **WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

*Today - Mostly Sunny And Smokey. Highs 81 To 91.*

*Tonight - Clear And Smokey. Lows 41 To 51.*

*Tuesday - Mostly Sunny And Smokey. Highs 81 To 91.*

#### **CENTRAL MONTANA**

*Today - Mostly Sunny And Smokey. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.*

*Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The 40s.*

*Tuesday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Lower 80s.*

#### **SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

*Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.*

*Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Upper 30s To Mid 40s.*

*Tuesday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.*

#### **EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

*Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 80s.*

***Tonight - Mostly Clear. Breezy East. Lows 45 To 55.***

***Tuesday - Mostly Sunny. Breezy East Through Late Morning. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.***

### **III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

***The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:***

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula
Lake	Cascade	Pondera
Lewis& Clark	Chouteau	Powell
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole
Sanders	Meagher	

### **IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

**State and National Guard Assistance:**

<b>Current Montana National Guard Resources</b>			
<b>Montana Army Guard</b>		<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>Montana Air Guard</b>
<b>NG SOLDIERS</b>	<b>AIRCRAFT MODULES</b>	<b>ARMY &amp; AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>NG AIRMEN</b>
	<b>3 UH-60S</b>	<b>68 HMMVs</b>	
		<b>3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)</b>	
		<b>6 1 ¼ TRAILER</b>	
		<b>18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS</b>	
		<b>5 M1009 TRUCK</b>	
		<b>4 HEMTT (Wrecker)</b>	
		<b>14 Pick Up</b>	
		<b>2 VANS</b>	
		<b>1 7-TON TRUCK</b>	
		<b>1 25' FLATBED TRAILER</b>	
		<b>1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO</b>	
		<b>3 CUCV</b>	
		<b>1 One Ton</b>	
<i>278 Soldiers Assigned</i>	<i>3 Aircraft Modules</i>	<i>127 HVY Equipment</i>	<i>211 Airmen Assigned</i>

### **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:  
Northwest Area Command  
Missoula Area Command  
Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)